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CLEMENTS, Gregory, N.
Dougherty, Clements, Hofer & Bernard
Suite 300
1901 Roxborough Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
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DOUGHERTY CLEMENTS & HOFER

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35

Authorized officer

Simin Baharlou

Facsimile No. +41 22 338 71 30

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INVISTA
NORTH AMERICA S.A.R.L. [US/US]; Three Little
Falls Center, 2801 Centerville Road, Wilmington, DE
19808 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): NGUYEN, Hung,
Manh [US/US]; 4409 Highcroft Lane, Charlotte, NC
28269 (US).

(74) Agents: CLEMENTS, Gregory, N. et al.; Dougherty,
Clements, Hofer & Bernard, Suite 300, 1901 Roxborough
Road, Charlotte, NC 28211 (US).

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(54) Title: MOLDABLE COMPOSITE ARTICLE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to moldable composite articles, and particularly to a molded nonwoven fibrous article, and specifically to an automobile headliner that has improved physical properties at low weight. There is a need to minimize the weight of the headliner and the critical parameter is minimum sag. For a molded non-needlepunched batt in the weight range of 1000 to 1200 grams per square meter (gsm), the sag at 91°C must be less than 10 mm, when cantilevering a distance of 28cm. The stiffness, strength and toughness of the batt should be greater than 2 N/mm, 17N and 70% respectively. In the first embodiment, the thermoplastic binder is a bicomponent fiber with an adhesion promoted polyolefin sheath and a polyester core. In the second embodiment, the matrix fiber is a synthetic fiber with a modulus greater than 10 cN/tex. In the third embodiment the matrix fiber is a natural fiber. In the fourth embodiment the bicomponent fiber contains a filler such as carbon black or titanium dioxide.



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